

STATE SENATOR • MARTHA G. SCOTT

Scott Press Release

P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing • Michigan • 48909-7536 • (517) 373-7748



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
AUGUST 4, 2003

CONTACT: SEN. MARTHA G. SCOTT
PHONE: 517/373-7748

Senator Scott Joins with Governor Granholm to Fight Childhood Lead Poisoning Threat

DETROIT- Standing side-by-side with Governor Jennifer Granholm, State Senator Martha G. Scott (D-Highland Park) announced today that she will sponsor part of a package of bills designed to tackle the threat of lead poisoning in Michigan. Senator Scott, speaking with Governor Granholm at a Detroit press conference this afternoon, said the bill package will include increased funding for public awareness programs and tougher fines for landlords who fail to address lead poisoning problems.

“I am proud to be working with Governor Granholm to address what is arguably one of the top public health threats in the city of Detroit,” Sen. Scott said. “Clearly, the lead poisoning threat is too big a problem to be addressed solely by local ordinances and local government. It has long been my position that state government needed to show more leadership on this issue and now under Governor Granholm we are moving forward.”

The package will do the following:

- Create a Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Control Commission.
- Require Medicaid Managed Care Organizations and Fee for Service Providers to provide lead screening tests to no fewer than 80 percent of Medicaid-enrolled children.
- Require electronic reporting from Michigan laboratories of positive lead results.

- Create a web-based and printed “Lead-Free Rental Housing Registry” which will include new lead-free construction or inspected rental units that have been found to be lead free.
- Create a state civil penalty for landlords who knowingly rent homes with dangerous levels of lead.

“Lead poisoning is a major public health threat shown to be responsible for scores of cases of brain damage, learning difficulties and anemia in children,” said Sen. Scott. “State and local leaders owe it to the children of Michigan to make every effort to get this public health hazard under control.”

###